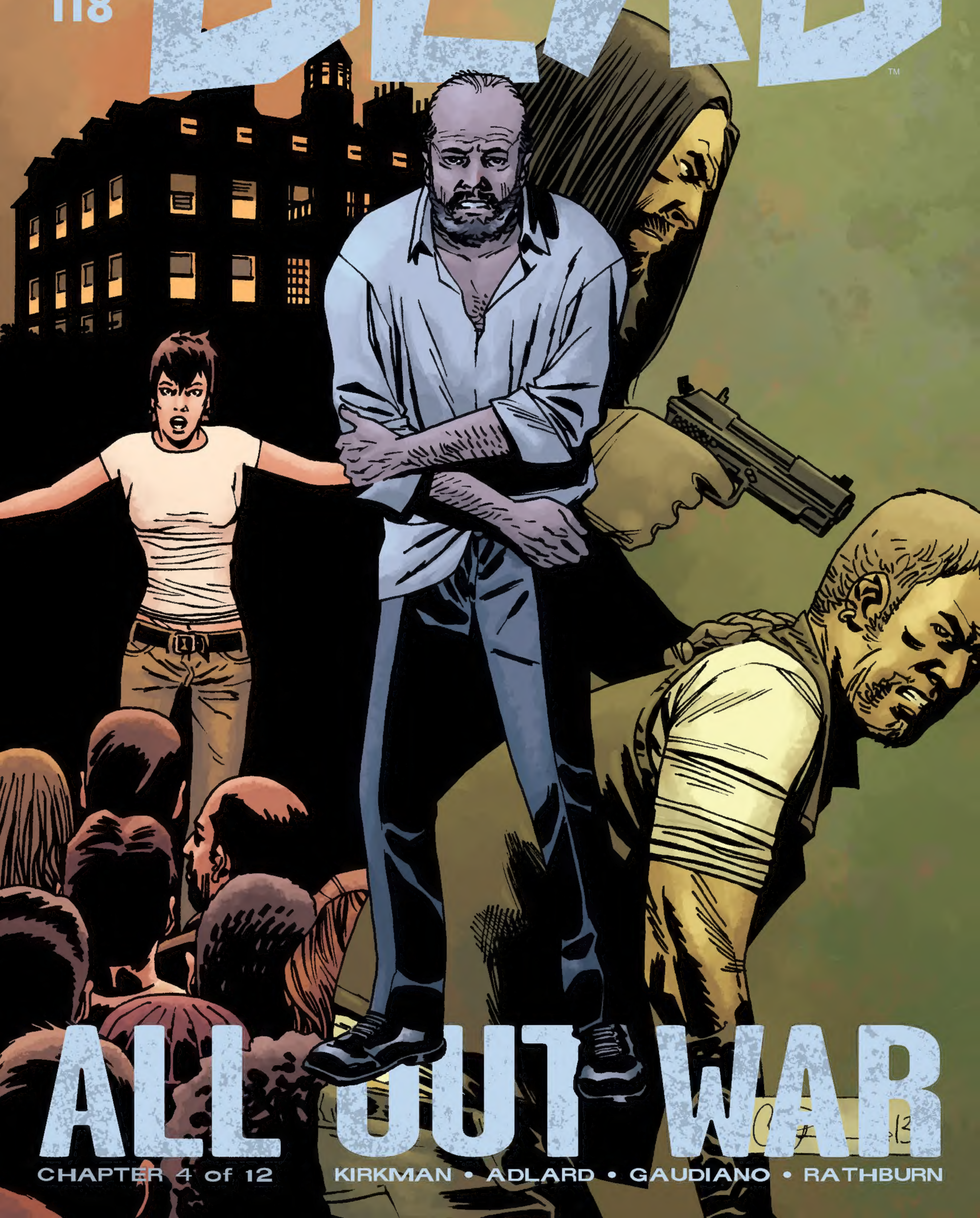




SKYBOUND

118

THE WALKING DEAD



ALL OUT WAR

CHAPTER 4 of 12

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • GAUDIANO • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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Previously:

After winning the first battle, Rick's allies plan to hit the Saviors' supply outposts as Negan's people are trapped, beating back waves of roamers. Even their hostage, Holly, isn't the bargaining chip Negan imagined... but that doesn't stop him from killing one of his own men after an attempted rape.

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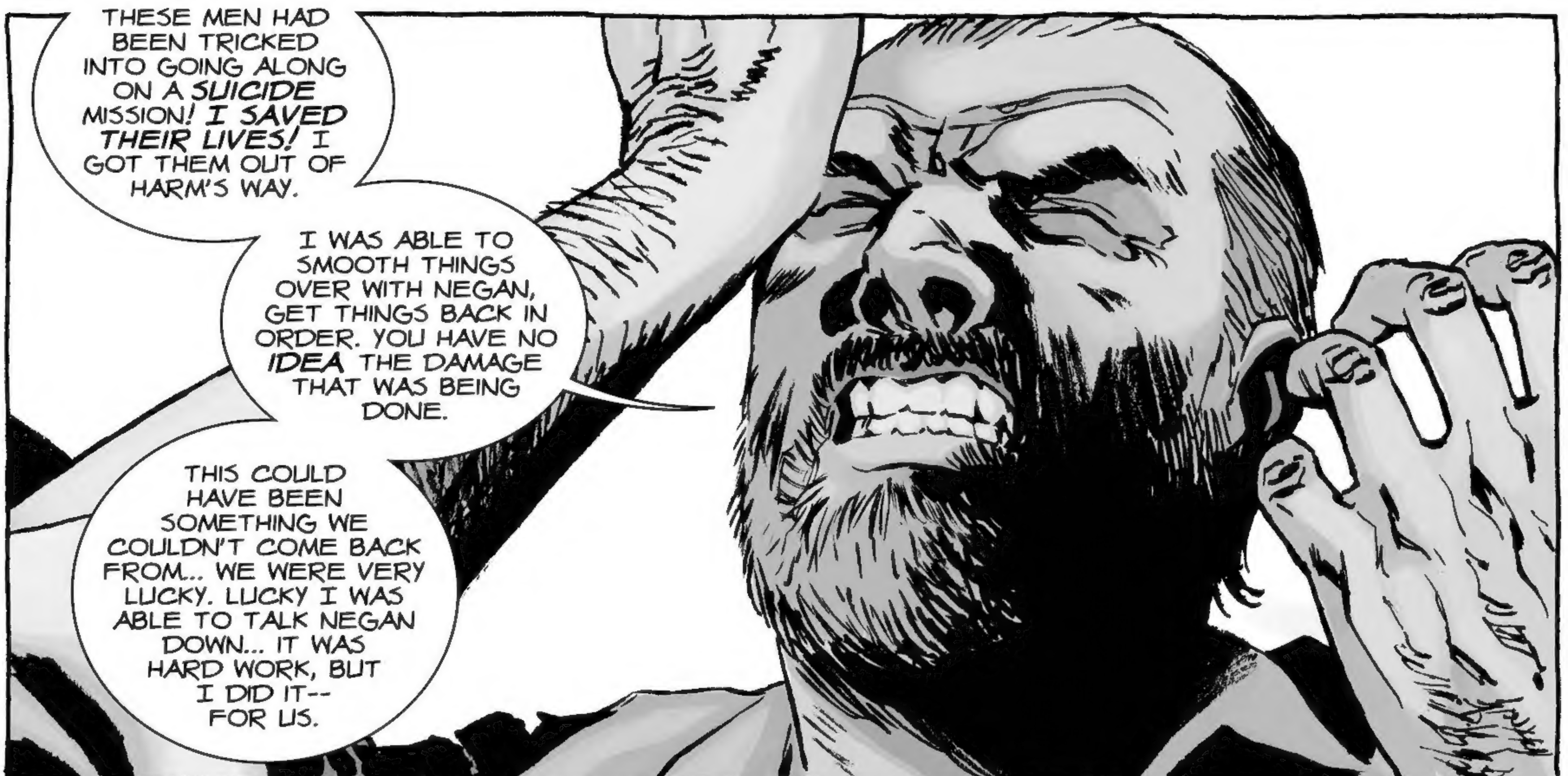
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ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR
FUCKING MIND?! YOU
PULLED THESE PEOPLE
BACK--YOU'RE
ON **NEGAN'S**
SIDE?!

WHAT THE
FUCK IS
WRONG WITH
YOU?!

I WON'T TAKE THIS
FROM YOU! NOT
AFTER EVERYTHING
I'VE BEEN
THROUGH--
NOT AFTER
EVERYTHING I'VE
SACRIFICED!

I LAID MY
LIFE ON THE
LINE TO SAVE
THESE PEOPLE--
TO BRING THEM
HOME! I'M DOING
EVERYTHING I
CAN TO KEEP
EVERYONE SAFE.



YOU MEAN
TO KEEP **YOU**
SAFE. AND
YOU'RE A
FUCKING
COWARD.

AND YOU'RE
NOT EVEN DOING
THAT WELL.
YOU'RE JUST
DOING WHAT'S EASY.



YOU THINK MY
JOURNEY BACK
HERE WAS EASY?!
YOU THINK I'M NOT
DOING THINGS
RIGHT?

WHERE THE
HELL DO YOU GET
OFF? I'VE BEEN
KEEPING THIS GROUP
TOGETHER SINCE THE
BEGINNING! THESE
PEOPLE ARE HERE
BECAUSE OF **ME!**



THIS RICK
CHARACTER
IS TEARING
WHAT WE'VE
BUILT APART.
NEGAN IS NOT
A MADMAN.

HE CAN
BE WORKED
WITH... HE'S
REALLY QUITE
REASONABLE.



YOU THINK
NEGAN IS
REASONABLE?





YOU ARE NOT STUPID PEOPLE. DON'T ALLOW YOUR LEADER TO RUIN YOUR LIVES.

IS ANYONE HERE HAPPY WITH THE STATUS QUO? YOU LIKE WORKING SO HARD TO GIVE NEGAN AND HIS PEOPLE HALF?!

I KNOW YOU DON'T! YOU EVEN TASKED RICK GRIMES WITH TAKING NEGAN OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE!



THAT'S NOT EXACTLY--



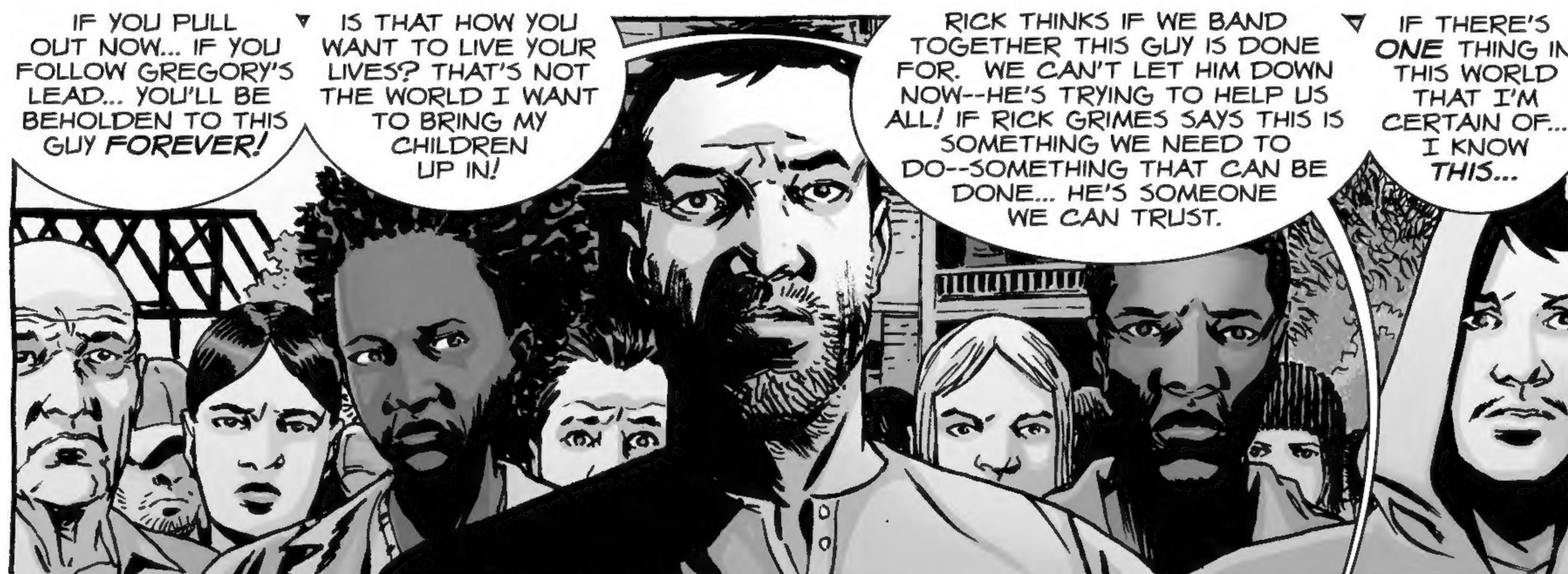
SHUT THE FUCK UP BEFORE I HIT YOU AGAIN!



RICK IS DOING WHAT YOU ASKED HIM TO DO. HE'S REMOVING NEGAN FROM THE EQUATION--HE'S FIXING THINGS.

THIS MAY BE YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET OUT OF THIS SITUATION.

THIS COULD BE IT!



IF YOU PULL OUT NOW... IF YOU FOLLOW GREGORY'S LEAD... YOU'LL BE BEHOLDEN TO THIS GUY FOREVER!

IS THAT HOW YOU WANT TO LIVE YOUR LIVES? THAT'S NOT THE WORLD I WANT TO BRING MY CHILDREN UP IN!

RICK THINKS IF WE BAND TOGETHER THIS GUY IS DONE FOR. WE CAN'T LET HIM DOWN NOW--HE'S TRYING TO HELP US ALL! IF RICK GRIMES SAYS THIS IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO DO--SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE... HE'S SOMEONE WE CAN TRUST.

IF THERE'S ONE THING IN THIS WORLD THAT I'M CERTAIN OF... I KNOW THIS...



...I
BELIEVE
IN RICK
GRIMES.



WHERE'S MY DAD?!



HE'S FINE.

STILL WORKING.

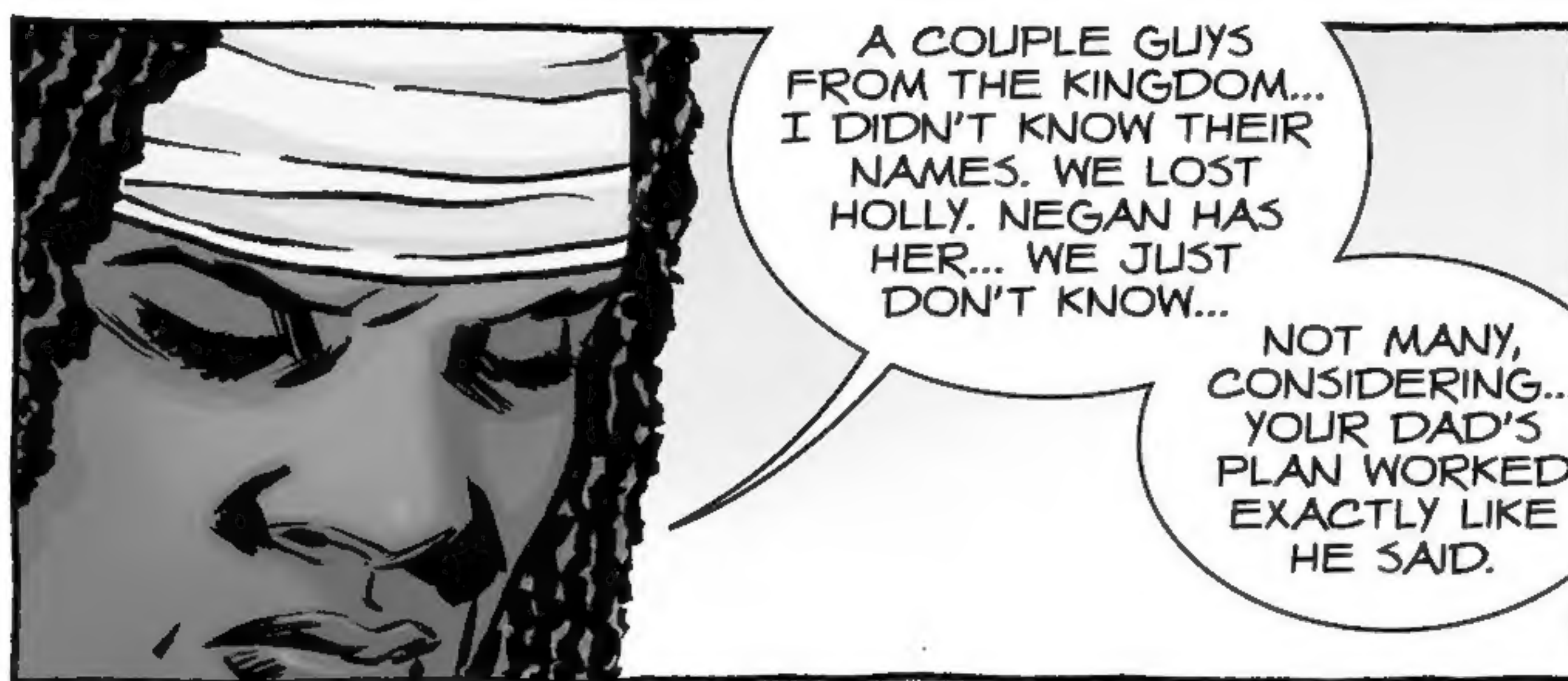


THEY'RE ATTACKING V OUTPOSTS. NEGAN'S TRAPPED AT HIS PLACE FOR NOW.

RICK'S SURE HE'S COMING HERE AS SOON AS HE CAN. I'M HERE JUST IN CASE THAT HAPPENS SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.



WE LOSE ANYONE?



A COUPLE GUYS FROM THE KINGDOM... I DIDN'T KNOW THEIR NAMES. WE LOST HOLLY. NEGAN HAS HER... WE JUST DON'T KNOW...

NOT MANY, CONSIDERING... YOUR DAD'S PLAN WORKED EXACTLY LIKE HE SAID.



HOW
ARE THINGS
HERE?

FEW ROAMERS GATHERED
OUTSIDE, STILL BEING DRAWN
BY THE GUNFIGHT I'D IMAGINE...
NOTHING TOO SERIOUS. IT'S
MOSTLY QUIET.

NO ONE IS
MAKING ME
GO TO SCHOOL
RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S
NICE.



EVERYBODY'S
SCARED.



EVERYBODY?



YEAH.



GOOD.

I'D BE
REALLY
WORRIED IF
THAT WEREN'T
THE CASE.

THINGS WERE GOING WELL
AT FIRST, BUT NOT AS GOOD
AS RICK'S GROUP, I'M SURE...

BRAKKA!
BRAKKA!

BLAM!

ERIC?!!







DWIGHT HAD TOLD US OF FOUR DIFFERENT OUTPOSTS THE SAVIORS HAD MEN STATIONED AT.



RICK TOOK HIS GROUP TO THE ONE WE WERE TOLD WAS THE MOST FORTIFIED... THE MOST GUARDED.



DON'T---



RICK WAS CONFIDENT. KNEW HIS MEN COULD HANDLE IT.



BACK DOOR.

MOVE.



I HAVE NEVER
ORDERED MEN
TO DIE FOR A
GREATER GOOD.

BRAKKA!
BRAKKA!
PKOW!

I HAVE NEVER
WATCHED THOSE
I LOVE LAY DOWN
THEIR LIVES
FOR ME.

BLAM! BLAM!
BRAKKA!
BRAKKA!

WE'RE SURROUNDED
BY DEATH IN THIS WORLD...
BUT SOMEHOW, THIS
WAS DIFFERENT.

BRAKKA!
BRAKKA!
PKOW!

I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.



IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR ME TO REALIZE OUR INITIAL SUCCESS WAS ONLY LUCK.

RICHARD! HOLD ON! YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT! YOU'RE GOING TO BE--

**BRAKKA!
BRAKKA!**



THEY WERE MOWING US DOWN. WE THOUGHT WE HAD THE DROP ON THEM. THEY WERE ONLY LETTING US GET CLOSE ENOUGH FOR THE KILL.

I WAS ARROGANT.

**PTING!
PTING!**



I WAS ALSO FOOLISH. IT TOOK ME FAR TOO LONG TO REALIZE THIS BATTLE WAS OVER... THAT WE'D LOST.

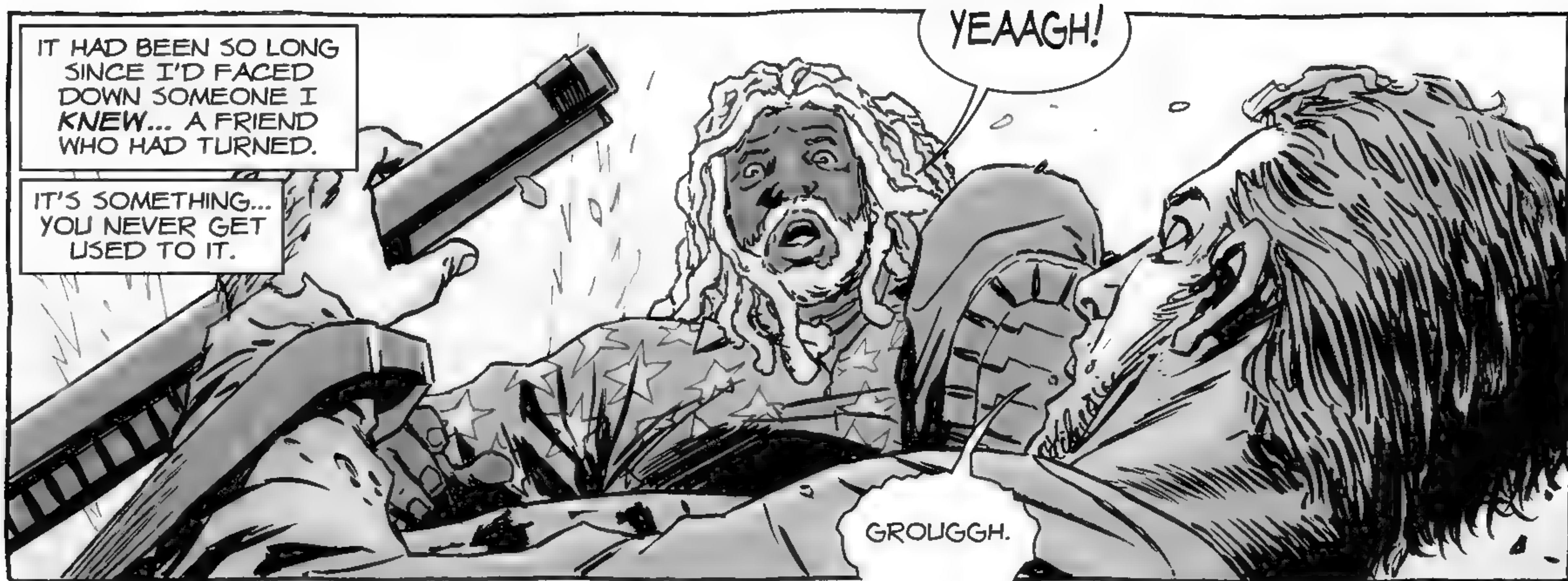
SHOOM!



I WASN'T GOING TO GIVE UP. I WAS DETERMINED.



I'D NEVER SEEN SOMEONE TURN THAT FAST.



IT HAD BEEN SO LONG
SINCE I'D FACED
DOWN SOMEONE I
KNEW... A FRIEND
WHO HAD TURNED.

IT'S SOMETHING...
YOU NEVER GET
USED TO IT.

YEAAGH!

GROUGGH.



BUT WHAT COMES AFTER.

WRACK!



THAT PART IS THE WORST.

WROCK!



HUFF!

HUFF!

DON'T
FUCKING
MOVE!



THE
FUCK---!

GET
THEM
BACK!

BACK,
GODDAMN
IT!





I'D LOST SIGHT OF HER
IN THE BATTLE. SHE'D
TAKEN A FEW MEN OUT--
I THOUGHT SHE WAS
PREOCCUPIED WITH
THEM.

MAYBE SHE WENT TO
FIND ME? MAYBE SHE
WAS JUST DRAWN TO
THE NOISE.



I WISH SHE'D BEEN
CONTENT. I WISH
SHE'D NOT COME
AFTER ME.

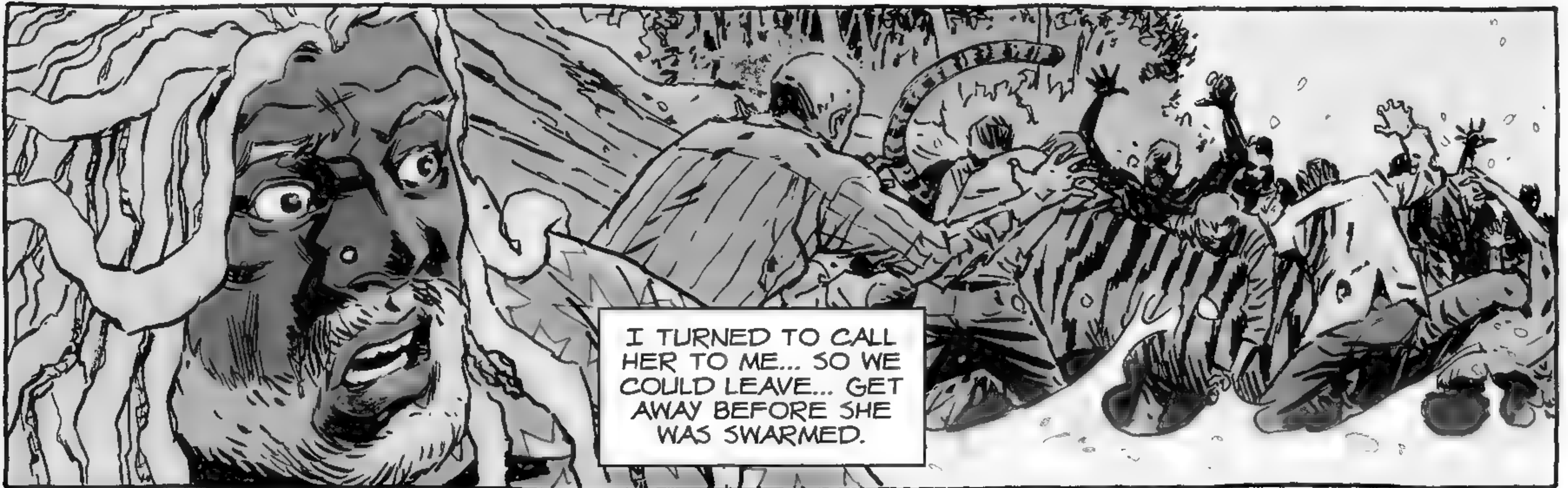




THERE WERE
SO MANY OF
THEM.



WE WERE
SURROUNDED--
BUT I WAS ABLE
TO GET AWAY.



I TURNED TO CALL
HER TO ME... SO WE
COULD LEAVE... GET
AWAY BEFORE SHE
WAS SWARMED.



SHE KNEW THERE WERE
TOO MANY, SHE KNEW
I'D NEVER GET AWAY
OTHERWISE.

THERE WAS
NO OTHER
WAY.



NO OTHER
WAY FOR ME
TO LIVE...

I WISH I'D DIED IN
THAT FIELD. COMING
BACK HERE... AFTER
LOSING SO MANY MEN, I
FEEL EMBARRASSED...
ASHAMED...

THINGS
WOULD BE SO MUCH
BETTER IF I HAD
DIED... MY PEOPLE
WOULD SEE MY DEATH
AS A **HEROIC**
SACRIFICE... THEY'D
NEVER HAVE TO SEE
ME... LIKE *THIS*...



BUT MOST
OF ALL... I
WOULDN'T
HAVE LOST
SHIVA.



LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Ezekiel DOESN'T have a tiger. RIP Shiva.

Too soon, Sean. Too soon.

Robert,

Killing Lori and Judy scarred me mentally. Glenn being bludgeoned to death made my blood pressure drop down. The whole Michonne and Governor thing was simply fucked up. There are so many heartbreaking and shocking moments in this comic book that are impossible to count.

And at the end of the day, I'm okay with all that.

But, please, whatever you do, don't hurt the tiger.

Dodo Patak
Croatia

Dodo, get your "Ezekiel has a tiger" memorial t-shirt while supplies last. Don't think we'll be going back to print on those suckers.

We could always make them ironically.

Hello me and my husband are big fans. The comic is a must for us. But i have a few questions...

Kirkman, how does it make you feel to know no matter how dirty or detailed your comic may be it still doesn't compare to the awesome \$hit that Nicotero comes up with?

I'm sorry you seem funny. You make me laugh whenever i read "letter hacks" but dude you are such a dick. it's funny but so dick-ish. So thanks for the laughs and look forward to your dick-ish funny response.

Mackiewicz, you must be a parent. the lines i read from you in here remind me of how try to change topics with my step son.

Your fan,
Paige Yates

I would never talk down to a child the way I do to you guys!

I'm just going to assume you were calling Mackiewicz a dick... not me.

**That's totally something a dick would assume!
DIIIIIIICCCCKKKKK.**

It feels just fine to have Nicotero topping what we do here on the TV show. I'm very proud of what that team has been able to accomplish... that said, I will endeavor to work with Charlie to come up with something that could never be topped by the TV show. Gauntlet thrown!

Hi, a few questions.

I have to ask, when do ya think we'll get more information on the tv spin off?

Next year some time... mid year, I'd wager.

Also, could you tell is if Maggie is going to get more story apart from the baby. I'm honestly interested in her relationships with the group, mainly her and Rick. I'd love for you to delve into their relationship. And can you guys not kill her off anytime soon (TV SHOW AND COMICS, THANKS.) I'm interested in her story and still bitter over Andrea as I

was actually looking forward to Randrea? Rindrea?

You got some Maggie this issue and you've got some Maggie still to come. She's even on the cover to #124!

LOTS of cool stuff coming up for Maggie... unless she dies.

Final question is, do you think to some degree you have let fans or the actual TV show influence the writing of the comic/ TV series any?

Keep up the good work!
Greg

I've done everything I can to make sure that I don't let the existence of the TV show influence what I do in the comic. I don't want there to ever be a situation where you get a different story in the comic because of the show either because I don't know if it could eventually be adapted or because I got some kind of idea from the show.

I really do try to keep this comic as pure as possible.

Robert, Sean, & Co.

Now that we are in the middle of a war, when are you going to weaponize Rick's stub? Maybe add a machete blade, assault rifle, super-soaker? SOMETHING!

Evil Dead's Ash, Captain Hook, Merle Dixon... Rick Grimes?

One handed clap,
Romel De Silva

Weaponized Stub: one of the great, forgotten SoCal hardcore groups of the 80s... or basement VHS tape you can't unwatch?

Hey, just wanted to make sure... not EVERYONE who writes to you guys are dicks, right? 'Cause that seems like the case whenever I read Letter Hacks. If so, LOVE THE COMICS. ALL OF 'EM. YOU GUYS ARE GREAT. Hope that helps tip the scales.

Thanks for everything!
Doug

This Letter Hacks is so far dick-free...but also full of dicks, you follow me?

Most of the dicks are on Twitter.

Hey Guys,

I've been noticing that all the fan mail either fawns over how wonderful you guys are, or they go to the other extreme and let you know that you are destroying the series. I will do neither. I would just like you guys to know that I read your comics.

Trevor Johnson

This guy's not a dick!

I think this is the first "You guys aren't bad... but you're not exactly GOOD either" letter we've ever gotten.

This book has never looked better! Stefano Gaudiano, you're killin' it on inks! I'd like to see you stay on past the "All Out

War” event. Characters are popping of the page and there seems to be more depth with you on the team. Keep doing a beautiful job and thank you for all your hard work gentlemen,

Cameron B.
Olathe, Kansas

Yeah, everyone here couldn’t be happier with Stefano’s work. Go out and track down his other comics, like Gotham Central!

WE LOVE Stefano here at TWD central.

Hello there,

First time writer, I just want to say thank you for making my first comic book experience perfect with the walking dead series. I swear I’m on the edge of my seat right now waiting for #117. I’ve read through the series probably 3 times since I got them all a month ago.

Now my questions are how did Negan get a hold of Gregory? Did he go there and take him? And Jesus told Maggie and other on the hilltop to watch him what happened with that?

Thank you,

Owen Rowley
New Egypt, NJ

Sorry if it wasn’t clear... there’s a lot left to be assumed here. Gregory snuck out to warn Negan because he was so scared of the idea of going against him. He really is an awful human being.

First, let me tell you that the lilac-colored Walking Dead logo on the front of Issue #116 looked absolutely HIDEOUS! Good God!! Whose idea was that?! But more importantly, please don’t ever use that color again for the logo! Yuck! It didn’t even match the colors on the rest of the cover (the rest of which was great, especially the drawing of Holly who looked like she was about to put foot-to-ass. Or gun-to-ass since she was holding that shotgun). Perhaps the lilac color was some sick joke to intentionally piss people off. If so, then I guess the joke’s on me eh.

You don’t know what you’re talking about. That shit looks dope.

Agreed.

I really enjoy The Walking Dead, I haven’t read it since Issue #1 or anything but I am totally enamored by it and have read most issues through the first two compendiums. I prefer the comic over the TV show, but I have to say that Season 4 of the show is shaping up to be the best season so far in my opinion.

Agree. But watch out for the upcoming lilac episode.

I do a lot of thinking about “What if” scenarios when it comes to an apocalypse- zombie or otherwise- in which there is no electricity or other infrastructure so here are some pressing questions that I have been mulling over. Apologies if some of these have already been covered in other Letter Hacks in past issues...

#1- Water filtration plants/sewage treatment plants/clean drinking water: Assuming these types of facilities were all abandoned and no one is running them (and assuming that all bottled water has been scavenged and drunk up), how the hell does anyone have clean drinking water?

The safe zone was built to protect politicians in case of a serious emergency, so it’s got its own water supply.

#2- Related to this, do toilets still flush in an apocalypse? Not that I particularly want to, but I never see anyone use the can in any recent issues of the comics (and definitely not on the TV show).

Safe zone, yes. Everywhere else, I’d imagine it was like the time I was in Peru and just dumped a bucket of water down to aid in the non-functioning toilet. Humans have also proven to be effective in finding new places to take dumps.

#3- Menstrual cycles: yeah I know, gross topic but can’t help but think what do women do every month? Literally get “on the rag” like the days of old?

I don’t think anyone is requesting this subplot. Be thankful that all the female characters are polite enough to keep this business private, Jesus...

#4- Toothpaste: I never see anyone brush their teeth in the comic or TV show so I assume some people would have some painful cavities or other problems with their teeth from improper dental care.

Whatever real world aspects we touch are always in service to the story. But you can assume the safe zone has toothbrushes available.

#5- Glasses: My eyesight sucks without wearing glasses, so when I see Heath every month I can’t help but think if he lost his glasses he might as well not go outside the walls of the Safe Zone. I guess I just answered my own question with this one- if you depend on glasses to see you’d be in big trouble without them if you’re out “in the wild” amongst walkers. I have not seen anyone rig up their glasses with a fandangled tight sports strap-type of setup, though, to ensure that they don’t fall off.

Keep up the good work,

TONY
Chicago

Nice, Sean. Handle every other question so nicely and then just bail on me when the guy asks about eye glasses... damn you.

He already answered his own question--I’m trying to rate high in efficiency here.

Well, Tony... this may seem weird but in the world of the Walking Dead everyone’s glasses are magically stuck to their heads... there’s just no getting them off. They’re not like that weird Muppet where his eyes are on his glasses or anything, they just can’t take their glasses off.

Just got back from the comic book shop with my copy of issue 116. Not what I was expecting. In a good way, of course. I figured Rick wasn’t going to slink away after Negan’s “offer”, but I thought he was going to lose a lot more of his lil’ army from the Hilltop than he did. The zombie masses used as a weapon by the group they way they were was something that didn’t cross my mind either. Very nice.

Holly and Negan are going to make a cute couple. It’ll be fun to see how well they get along in the upcoming chapters. Also, Jesus stated that all he had was books back at the Hilltop. Not a vital question, but what do you think would be a few of the books in his collection? He seems like a fairly philosophical character who would value his reading material, just curious what he would spend his time on in the zombie apocalypse. Keep up the great work.

Darrick Patrick
Dayton, Ohio

Any books he’s still hanging onto after all this time must be important, right? But he probably didn’t take them from his house/apartment when shit went down, right? So they’d for the most part be popular, bestselling books... the Bible’s a no-brainer... Lord of the Rings... A People’s History of the United States... The Art of War? I thought this question would be kind of fun, now I’m just bored...

Actually, it’s mostly Goosebumps. Didn’t see that one coming did you?!

first off I just want to say I am a huge fan of both the TV series and comic book series of TWD and I have been collecting the single issue books for over a year now it’s definitely and always will be my favourite comic book series.

but I was wondering with this huge war going on what’s going to happen after? will the walkers ever be a threat to Rick and his friends again? I’m loving the current story arc but it seems like the walkers aren’t much of a threat whatsoever anymore.

Jonathan

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?! Maybe we should just break out our sweet crystal balls and tell you...

All kinds of awesome stuff. As cool as ALL OUR WAR is, I think Charlie would agree that what comes next... is going to be much cooler.

There’s no cease fire in sight, folks. Next issue, both sides regroup and casualties mount...

-Sean Mackiewicz

I can’t even remember what happens next because I’m already writing issue 122. Being this far ahead of schedule is WEIRD.

-Robert



more